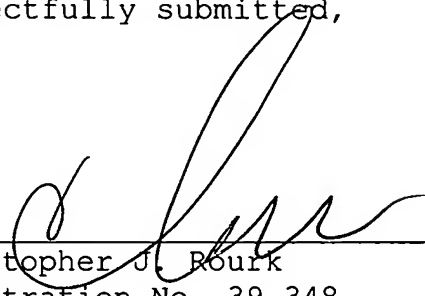


Applicants believe that the claims presented herein are distinguishable and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully solicit an early notice to the effect that all claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/20/02

By:   
Christopher J. Bourk  
Registration No. 39,348  
Attorney for Applicants  
AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER  
& FELD, L.L.P.  
1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 4100  
Dallas, TX 75201-4618  
(214) 969-2800  
(214) 969-4343 facsimile

201220 4258200T